crores has been earmarked for improvement of water ways to make them useful for inland navigation.

States opting out of scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas

*296. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States have opted out of the Scheme for Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Although no State has opted out of the Scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas, State Governments of Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have not made any proposals so far regarding location of Navodaya Vidyalayas in their States. The Government of West Bengal has conveyed that they will take a final decision in this regard after discussion with representatives of the Central Government. The Governments of Assam and Tamil Nadu have expressed reservation regarding the medium of instruction in the Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also conveyed a difference of opinion regarding migration of children from one region to another.

Flight by Supersonic Aircraft, "Concorde"

*298. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Supersonic Aircraft "Concorde" made a flight to New Delhi recently; if so, what was the purpose of this flight;

(b) whether there is any proposal to allow regular commercial flights of this aircraft to India; and

(c) if so, when it is likely to commence and how it is likely to affect the business of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SRRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. It was a round-the-world tourist charter flight of Air France.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

State of National Highways

*299. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that National Highways are in a bad shape at many places in the country;

(b) whether it is mainly attributable to paucity of maintenance funds; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide more funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) National Highways are generally in a traffic worthy condition though due to inadequate allocations, there have been adverse effects on maintenance of National Highways. Efforts are made every year to get the allocations enhanced and within constraints of overall resources, allocations are being enhanced from year to year but not to the full extent because of resource constraint.

हिन्दी विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना के लिये केन्द्रीय समिति की रिपोर्ट

*300. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिन्दी विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना की सम्भावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिए नियुक्त केन्द्रीय समिति की गत वर्ष कितनी बैठकें हुईं ; और